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# News Release

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## **SHERIFF JENKINS COMMENDS FREDERICK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Frederick County Sheriff Chuck Jenkins commends Dr. Terry Alban and Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) for the steps they have taken to support law enforcement and the major planning effort that is underway for the G-8. Sheriff Jenkins stated, "Eliminating classes and school transportation on May 18<sup>th</sup> will relieve a great deal of pressure from the law enforcement community. Dr. Alban and I have spoken several times over recent weeks in regard to the G8 Summit, and after sharing my concerns with her; we both agreed that the safety and security of Frederick County students is a priority for both the Sheriff's Office and FCPS."

The Frederick County Sheriff's Office has been designated as the lead agency for all Frederick County Government divisions in regards to emergency and law enforcement planning for this event. In addition to normal law enforcement functions, the sheriff's office is coordinating with local, state and federal agencies to address issues such as perimeter security, traffic congestion, and the possibility of large crowds. With the expected heavy influx of visitors to the Frederick County community, traffic will very likely be impacted due to volume and weather conditions, particularly along the major thoroughfares and arteries in the northern end of Frederick County. Sheriff Jenkins stated, "In as much as I expect some criticism for making this recommendation to FCPS, when weighing all of the necessary considerations involving public safety, security and transportation, I don't have a second thought in recommending the closure of schools." He added, "I would rather be cautious and play it safe going into this event, than have a regret later."

As a part of preparation for the G-8 Summit, the sheriff's office and emergency preparedness partners always encourage citizens, businesses and public agencies to keep the safety and welfare of our citizens as a priority.

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